

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'AINA



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

BRUCE E. OLIVEIRA
BRIGADIER GENERAL USA (Ret.)
INTERIM DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'AINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA

OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES
459 PATTERSON ROAD, E-WING, ROOM 1-A103
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-1522
Telephone Number (808) 433-0420

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2837 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO THE OAHU REGIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, HAWAII HEALTH
SYSTEMS CORPORATION
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

BY
BG BRUCE E. OLIVEIRA, USA, RETIRED
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF HAWAII OFFICE OF VETERAN SERVICES

March 18, 2024

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Sayama, and members of the committee:

I am Bruce Oliveira, Interim Director of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services, State of Hawaii, Department of Defense.

The Department of Defense (DOD) provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB2837 SD2 HD1.

Hawaii Veterans served our country and state at great personal and family cost. Now we need to provide for their long-term care. There are approximately 100,000 Veterans in the State of Hawaii, of which 41,000 are aged 65 and older. Veterans Affairs authorized 268 beds for Hawaii's State Veteran Homes (SVH). Our first SVH on Hawaii Island has 95 beds. The second SVH on Oahu has 120 beds. There is currently no SVH to serve the 7,500 veterans on Maui, and we still have additional SVH beds authorized for use.

The benefits of a Maui SVH include creation of jobs, development of training programs in collaboration with the University of Hawaii Maui College, a significant increase to Maui's long-term care (LTC) bed capacity, and reduction of the acute care facility "wait list" at Maui Memorial Medical Center. Moreover, the Maui SVH will bring a new source of Federal revenue and will ultimately be a self-sustaining operation with no annual state subsidy required. The Maui SVH Project will also support four major health services and facilities plan goals. First, focus on increasing cost-effective access to necessary health care services. Second, promote the financial viability of the health care delivery system. Third, encourage optimization of services and expensive technology by ensuring that supply meets the need and costs are reasonable. Fourth, promote regionalization of services where appropriate.

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The construction of the Maui SVH is currently being undertaken by our department. However, the DOD does not have the medical expertise for continued operational oversight of a LTC health facility and requires the management, operation, and staffing of the Maui state veterans home placed under a state agency able to manage a long-term care facility.

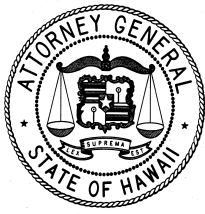
This proposed transfer of the Maui SVH to the Oahu regional HHSC, part of the Hawaii health systems corporation established pursuant to section 323F-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Maui state veterans home on Maui shall be assimilated into the Oahu regional health care system in a manner and to an extent that may be negotiated between the Oahu regional health care system and the department of defense. After assimilation, the physical assets and the ground lease of the Maui state veterans home shall become property of the Oahu regional health care system and the Maui state veterans home shall be managed by the Oahu regional health care system.

The Oahu regional health care system, at the discretion of its regional board of directors, is authorized to petition the Hawaii health systems corporation's board of directors to delegate and reassign ownership and oversight responsibility of the Maui state veterans home to another Hawaii health systems corporation region.

I urge you to support this proposal and invest in the long-term care of our veterans. Hawaii Veterans deserve the best possible healthcare and services available.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** on SB2837 SD2 HD1.

Bruce Oliveira, Bruce.e.oliveira@hawaii.gov, 808-672-1260



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2837, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, RELATING TO THE OAHU REGIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

DATE: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 329 and Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Blair A. Goto, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purposes of the bill are to: (1) by June 30 2027, grant temporary ownership and oversight of the operations and management agreement of the Maui State Veterans Home (MSVH) to the Oahu regional health care system (Oahu region); (2) require the Maui regional health care system (Maui region) to secure ownership of the land on which the MSVH is located; (3) by June 30, 2028, transfer ownership and oversight of the operations and management agreement of the MSVH from the Oahu region to the Maui region; (4) require the Maui region to submit reports to the Legislature prior to the regular sessions of 2025, 2026, and 2027 on the Maui region's efforts to reconstitute its board and management; and (5) require the Department of Defense, Maui region, and Oahu region to submit joint reports to the Legislature prior to the regular sessions of 2025, 2026, and 2027 on the progress of the MSVH, including the securing of federal funds, if any.

Article III, section 14, of the Hawaii Constitution provides, in part: "Each law shall embrace but one subject, which shall be expressed in its title." The title of the bill is: "A Bill for an Act Relating to the Oahu Regional Health Care System, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation."

The bill's purposes (2) and (4) above, require the Maui region to secure ownership of the land on which the MSVH is located and require the Maui region to submit reports to the Legislature prior to the regular sessions of 2025, 2026, and 2027 on the Maui region's efforts to reconstitute its board and management, respectively, establish requirements for the Maui region that do not explicitly relate to the Oahu regional health care system. Accordingly, the added requirements may be subject to challenge as being in violation of article III, section 14, of the Hawaii Constitution.

Both of these requirements were added by the House committee to which the bill was previously referred. To avoid possible challenges to the validity of the bill, we recommend the deletion of the added wording on page 2, lines 16-20, and of the Maui region report requirement on page 4, lines 3-14, of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2837 SD2 HD1
A BILL RELATING TO THE OAHU REGIONAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM,
HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

PRESENTATION TO
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

BY

Senator Avery B. Chumbley (Retired)
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Maui Regional Board
phone: 808.244.7079 cell: 808.276.3595
email: abc@aloha.net

March 20, 2024

2:00 PM

Chair. Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair Jackson D. Sayama and Members of the Committee,

At this moment, the Maui Regional Health Care System of HHSC is non-operational, but our community remains in strong support of SB2837 SD2 HD1 and recommends passing this bill out of committee on to the Finance Committee referral. We appreciate that the Department of Defense (DOD), State of Hawaii (SOH) must have qualified contract management operational oversight legislated for a 3D Hawaii State Veterans Home, (HI SVH) on Maui to come to fruition. That authority resides in the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) HRS 323F-3.5 as the Regional System Boards.

DOD has made it clear that they must have proper oversight authority put in place this legislative session, but they do not prefer transferring ownership and oversight responsibility to any particular HHSC Region. I believe the Maui Regional Healthcare System is capable to reconstitute itself in order to take on this responsibility, then we can amend legislation if necessary at a later time, or perhaps the current bill can still be legally fine-tuned to create a means of accomplishing this transfer.

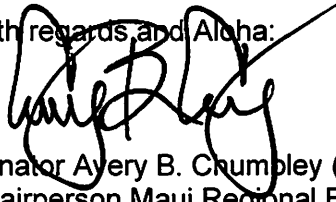
The 3D HI SVH Maui project is direly needed soonest by our Maui Veterans, their spouses and our Gold Star parents, and this project will give a much-needed boost to our Maui Community. Please pass this legislation forward so this project can proceed without delay. Our Veterans and our Community are depending upon you.

As the existing Maui Regional Board Chairperson, I can personally assure you I have the past experience and knowledge to ensure the proper oversight and management of this proposed Maui Veterans Home. I served on the HHSC Corporate Board from 2007 to 2014 with the last 5 years as its Chairperson. When I termed out of HHSC, I then moved to the Maui Regional Board (MRB) in 2014 and became its Chairperson in 2015. Working closely with all of the parties to achieve the Maui Health System (MHS) Transfer Agreement and MHS 30 year Master Lease, I was the signatory to the transfers in January 2016. That 17 years of board & management experience qualifies me to lead this effort on behalf of our Maui veterans and the Maui community, reconstituting the MRB with the requisite membership will not be difficult with the focus of this new effort.

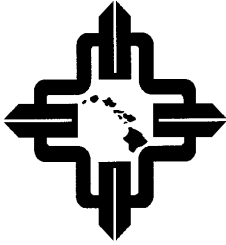
Lastly, I do not believe there would be any substantial new Legislative appropriations necessary to HHSC to provide the required administrative and legal support to "stand-up" the Maui Regional Board to its fully functioning ability, this should be able to be accomplished within the existing corporate appropriations.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. Should you have any additional questions about the reconstitution of the Maui Regional Board of HHSC, please feel free to contact me.

With regards and Aloha:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Avery B. Crumpley', written over a horizontal line.

Senator Avery B. Crumpley (Retired)
Chairperson Maui Regional Board, HHSC



OAHU REGION HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Representative Jackson D. Sayama, Vice-Chair

March 20, 2024, 2:00 P.M.
Via Video Conference
Conference Room 329
Hawaii State Capitol

Sean Sanada
Oahu Region Chief Administrative Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

Re: Testimony in Support

SB 2837, SD2, HD1 RELATING TO THE OAHU REGIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, HAWAII
HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

SB 2837, SD2, HD1 grants the Oahu Regional Health Care System (hereinafter, "Oahu Region") temporary ownership and oversight over the operations and management agreement of the proposed state veterans home on Maui and then transfers such ownership and oversight responsibilities to the Maui Regional Health Care System on a permanent basis.

The Oahu Region recognizes that, despite the high need, there is currently no state veterans home on the island of Maui to provide long-term care services for their veteran community. The Oahu Region further recognizes that management, operation, and staffing of the Maui state veterans home should be placed under a state agency with the expertise to manage a long-term care facility. Until such time that the Maui Regional Healthcare System is able to generate the resources required to manage a new facility on the island, the Oahu Region is willing to take on this role.

Should our participation become necessary, however, please bear in mind that construction of the Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home on Oahu (hereinafter, "DKASVH") will not be completed until March 2024 at the earliest. Thus, while much time and effort has gone into operational planning and construction support, we have yet to fully grasp the magnitude of our responsibilities in regard to this venture. Accordingly, we respectfully ask for the legislature's continued understanding and support as we deal with the many unforeseen legal and logistical issues that will likely arise for the DKASVH and, if given the responsibility, the planned Maui facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
C O R P O R A T I O N

"Quality Healthcare For All"

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Representative Jackson D. Sayama, Vice-Chair

March 20, 2024

2:00 PM

Hawaii State Capitol

Room 329 & Via Videoconference

**Comments on SB 2837, SD2, HD1, with a Request for an Amendment
RELATING TO THE OAHU REGIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, HAWAII HEALTH
SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

Temporarily authorizes the Oahu regional health care system to oversee the operations and management agreement of the proposed state veterans home on Maui. Establishes a timeline and process for the permanent oversight of the operations and management agreement of the proposed veterans home on Maui to be reassigned to the Maui regional health care system. Effective 7/1/3000.

Edward N. Chu
President & Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **with comments of SB 2837, SD2, HD1, with a request for an amendment.**

Should it be the will of the Legislature to pass this measure, we respectfully request the previous language in SB 2837, SD2, be utilized as that will allow the State Veterans home on Maui to be initially included as part of the O'ahu region, and at the same time enable other state agencies the option of management. We respectfully suggest this language as an introductory step towards building this needed facility on Maui.

HHSC appreciates the intent of the HD1 of ultimately aligning the operations of the Maui Veterans Home with a state agency that represents that community. However, in accordance with HRS §323F-3.5, each regional board is responsible for its local governance, operations, and administration. As such, it is the responsibility of the Maui Regional Board to ensure that it meets the minimum membership requirements and maintain its participatory status within the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. Currently, the Maui Regional Board does not have enough members to satisfy the statutory requirement of having a minimum of seven members, and it has not met the minimum meeting requirements contained in HRS §323F-4 for several years. Until such

time that the Maui Regional Board demonstrates that it can achieve that minimum membership and it can effectively fulfill the powers, duties, and responsibilities of a regional board as defined in HRS §323F, HHSC believes that broadening of the scope of potential operators as proposed in SB2837 SD2 would be a more effective way of moving the Maui Veterans Home project forward while still allowing the Maui Regional Board to have the ability to operate the facility should it be able to reconstitute itself.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 20, 2024

S.B. 2837, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 — RELATING TO THE OAHU REGIONAL HEALTH CARE
SYSTEM, HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION.

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of S.B.2837, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, which temporarily authorizes the Oahu regional health care system to oversee the operations and management agreement of the proposed state veterans home on Maui and establishes a timeline and process for the permanent oversight of the operations and management agreement of the proposed veterans home on Maui to be reassigned to the Maui regional health care system.

For decades, Maui stakeholders, including Maui Legislators, have been outspoken proponents about keeping Maui based health facilities under the jurisdiction of their island. We appreciate the current (H.D. 1) version of this measure and applaud the members of the House Committee on Health and Homelessness intention of keeping a Maui based health facility under Maui jurisdiction. Granting the Oahu Regional Health Care System temporary authority to oversee this facility will give Maui Regional Health Care System adequate time to take on this responsibility. We believe that the current measure will better serve and be in the best interest of all stakeholders involved.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 2837, S.D. 2, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

Oahu Veterans Center



The Gathering Place for Veterans

March 19 2024

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Aquino, and members of the committee,

SUBJECT: Testimony on Senate Bill 2837, Relating to the Oahu Regional Health Care System, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

The Oahu Veterans Council, comprising of 50 Veteran Services Organizations and Posts and other organizations who provide service and support to our Veterans in Hawaii, strongly support Senate Bill 2837.

Yours sincerely,

COL. Edward Cruickshank, USA (Ret.)
Purple Heart Recipient
Commander of the Rainbow Chapter 43, Military Order of the Purple Heart
President of the Oahu Veterans Council and Center



Oahu Veterans Council Officers

President - Edward Cruickshank
1st VP - Gary Chambliss
2nd VP - Alma Grocki
Secretary/Center Treasurer - Brian Hawkins
Treasurer - Gary Littlefield
Director - Matt Horn
Director - Patsy Takemura

Director - Reuben Bilan
Director - Howard Sugai
Director - Jennifer Sabas

Executive Director

Claire Levinson

Veteran Service Organization Members

American Legion Dept. of HI
American Legion Post #17
American Legion Post #19
Disabled American Veterans DAV Chapter #1
Fleet Reserve Association Branch 50
Go For Broke Association
Hiki No Artillery Association
Honolulu Council of the Navy League
Marine Corps League Aloha Detachment 363
MIS Military Intelligence Service Club of Hawaii
Military Officers Assn. of America Hawaii Aloha Chapter
Military Order of the Purple Heart State of Hawaii
Military Order of the Purple Heart, Rainbow Chapter
Military Order of World Wars
Military Order of Foreign Wars
Mount Hebo Members
National Assn. of Atomic Veterans
National Assn. of Uniformed Services
National Sojourners—Hawaii Chap. #9
Scottish-American Post 808 Military Society
Special Forces Assn. - Chapter VIII
Special Forces BMC Fort DeRussy
The Steven A Cohen Military Family Clinic
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #858
Veterans of Foreign Wars Dept. of HI
VFW Auxiliary Dept. of HI
VFW Post #94
VFW Post #110
VFW Post #970
VFW Post #970 Executive Committee
VFW Post #1540
VFW Post#2875
VFW Auxiliary Post #2875
VFW Post#3292
VFW Post #10154
VFW Post#10276
VFW Auxiliary Post #10276
Women Marine Assoc. Wahine Koa HI 2 Chapter

Military Branch Council Liaison

CR Drumheller - OVC/USN Liaison
Moses Kaoiwi - OVC/HIANG/USA Liaison

Contributing Members

AARP
American Red Cross
General David Bramlett, USA, (Ret.)
Sandy Ballard
Earl Hurrey, Historic Programs
Glenn Perry
Stephen Tom
Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Child and Family Service
Gene Castagnetti
Knights of Columbus
Nisei Veterans Legacy Center Inc.
Sheep Dog Impact Assistance

U.S Department of Veterans Affairs

VA Honolulu Regional Office, Benefits Administration
VA Pacific Islands Health Care System
VA Vet Center, Honolulu
VA Vet Center, West Oahu, Kapolei
National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

Hawaii State Office of Veterans Services

I strongly support SB2837 SD2 HD1. As a psychologist who served the veterans of Maui and Molokai through the Maui VA Community Clinic for over 25 years I am personally aware of the need for long term care for the veterans of Maui. This legislation is an important step in assuring the Maui veterans, their spouses and families, and the Gold Star families that they are not forgotten. You may not hear directly from those who will benefit from the long term care that this State veterans home will make possible. Many of our veterans will have no understanding of the delay that could occur if an authority is not in place sooner rather than later to oversee operations and management. Passing SB2837 SD2 HD1 now affirms this Legislature's commitment to their needs. I hope that this testimony will serve as a voice on behalf of the Maui veterans and their loved ones from whom you may not have heard. Mahalo for considering the passage of SB2837 SD2 HD1.

SB-2837-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 7:36:52 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Clayton Sam Park	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill on behalf of our Mau'i veterans as a veteran myself.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2837 SD2 HD1
A BILL RELATING TO THE OAHU REGIONAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM,
HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

PRESENTATION TO
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

BY

Thomas M. Driskill, Jr
COL, USA, MSC (Ret)
698 Kaulana Place
Honolulu, Hawaii
96821

March 20, 2024

2 pM

Chair Mark Nakashima, Vice Chair Jackson Sayama and Members of the Committee,

I am Tommy Driskill and I am testifying in strong **SUPPORT** of SB 2837 SD2 HD1 Relating to the Oahu Regional Healthcare System, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

Based upon my past years of experience as President/CEO, Hawaii Health Systems Corp (HHSC) Aug 1997 to Dec 2009, during which time I oversaw the planning, construction, opening and initial operation of the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home, Hilo and my work over the past two years and ten months overseeing construction of the Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home (DKA SVH), Kapolei for the Director, Office of Veterans Services, DOD, SOH, I feel uniquely qualified to strongly **SUPPORT** this legislation.

In 2021/2022, The Department of Defense (DOD) worked hard to align the DKA SVH under their administration with a goal of ultimately providing oversight of a contracted manager once the new facility was operationalized. Moving through that process, DOD determined they had **NEITHER** the medical expertise for continued operational oversight of a long-term care facility, **NOR** the legal flexibility to contract, administer and provide operational oversight for a long-term care facility. Additionally, DOD lacked legislative authority to create 501-c3 tax-free structures like HHSC. Faced with this challenging situation, Representative Ryan Yamane, District 19, introduced HB 1893 to the 2022 legislature. Recognizing the need for proper contract management oversight, this bill mandated ownership transfer of the DKA SVH from DOD to the Oahu Region, HHSC not later than June 30, 2023. The 2022 legislature passed the bill as HB 1893 HD1, SD2 CD1 and it was later signed into law by Governor David Ige as ACT 285 Session Laws of Hawaii 2022. Without this transfer of oversight authority, the DKA SVH would never have become a reality, but thanks to legislative intervention, our 120 bed Long-Term Care facility in Kapolei for Veterans, their spouses and Gold Star parents is now 99% complete. Oahu Region, HHSC has recently announced the selection of our new contract manager, Ohana Pacific Health (a local LTC corporation), furniture and equipment delivery is now taking place, substantial construction completion / beneficial occupancy certification is projected end of April 2024 and initial patient intake is anticipated to begin in Fall 2024.

In addition to our 1st SVH, a 95 bed facility in Hilo, our new 2D SVH, a 120 bed facility in Kapolei, will help meet our Veterans and community long-term care needs, but a greater need still exists especially on our neighbor islands with particular emphasis on Maui. Accordingly, the Office of Veterans Services, DOD, SOH submitted a pre-application to the Veterans Administration Office of State Veterans Homes March, 2023 for a 3D SVH to be located on Maui. That pre-application was accepted in April, 2023 and is under continuing review. The 3D SVH, Maui is scoped to be a 60 bed, 82,500 sq ft facility, costing approximately \$93M with construction cost to be approximately shared 35% State and 65% Federal.

Today we face basically the same situation on Maui that we faced with DKA SVH on Oahu two years ago in that DOD has neither the medical expertise nor the authority to contract, administer and provide operational oversight for a long-term care facility on Maui. The legislation we are strongly supporting herein will establish authority so that operation of a 3D SVH Maui can be properly overseen by a State Agency qualified to provide this oversight. That could be the Oahu Region, HHSC which is already managing oversight for our 2D SVH, Kapolei or it could be a reconstituted Maui Region, HHSC if the Maui Community so desires.

Our AG Support Team for DOD has been working on further amended language for SB2837 SD2 HD1 that would create a mechanism for Maui Region, HHSC to supersede Oahu Region, HHSC assuming both the ownership and operational oversight responsibility for a 3D SVH on Maui if indicated. However, the AG's amended bill wording would keep the legislative language within established constitutional legal parameters. This language is maturing right now, but will ultimately be able to accommodate a Maui Region, HHSC default to assume responsibility with legally acceptable slightly revised wording.

In order to prepare to ask our Governor to submit a request to our State legislature in 2025 for our \$35M State match, that will trigger a \$58M Federal match for the 3D SVH Maui construction cost, two things much be accomplished this year:

- We must put in place legislative authority so that proper contract management oversight can be provided for operation of a 3D SVH Maui.
- We must identify state land on Maui where our new facility can be constructed. This effort is on-going as we speak.

If we fail to accomplish either of these two tasks this year, then at a minimum, this project will be set back at least another year best case. When we point out that under the most optimal circumstances, if all approvals can be obtained in a timely fashion, the very earliest we could hope to open our 3D SVH Maui for patient intake would be CY 2029 and more likely it would be CY 2030. So adding another year to this already arduous process would result in simply further delaying sorely needed care for our most deserving Veterans, their spouses and Gold Star parents.

Bottom Line: This self-sustaining project will greatly benefit Maui Veterans and the entire Maui Community with new construction, new jobs, new education opportunities, new Federal funding and long-term care relief for Maui. DOD is not concerned if ultimately Maui Region, HHSC, Oahu Region, HHSC or any other Region HHSC accepts ownership and provides operational oversight for our new 3D SVH Maui. However, some authority for proper contract management operational oversight must be put in place in this 2024 Hawaii State Legislative session in order for this important project to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation which we strongly support on behalf of both our Maui Veterans and our State-wide Hawaii Veterans, their families and our Gold Star Parents.

Thomas M Driskill Jr
COL, USA, MSC (Ret)
tmdriskill@gmail.com
808-499-9917